

Church News.

REPORT OF PENNSYLVANIA CHURCH CONVENTION.

Held at Salisbury, Pa., Sept. 19, 20, 1896.

The convention met at 2 P. M., was opened by singing, reading and prayer led by R. Z. Replogle. The Moderator then made his Annual Address which was as follows:

MODERATORS ADDRESS.

Fathers and Brethren: The interval between the Annual Conventions of the Brethren Church, in the State of Penna., has, with its happenings, passed into history, and we are now brought to the convening of the representatives of our several Churches for the sessions of the year 1896, with thankful hearts for the multiplied favors of the past, and in the entertainment of the fondest hopes relative to the future.

We are grateful to the Church's Divine Head that the lives of all our ministers have been spared and nothing has transpired, during the ecclesiastical year, in the Providence of God, to take any of the laborers from their work. The cause of Christ has been advanced in our midst, and we, as a district, have had, from time to time renewed tokens of the Master's kindly care, our Heavenly Father's unceasing watchfulness, and the Holy Spirit's guiding power. Older charges, under our inspection, have been strengthened and encouraged, God's children have been built up and established in holiness and the blessed faith of God, while the conversion of sinners, as a constant report, has come to us from all parts of the State. Our Evangelists have done most excellent work, as their addresses to this Conference will doubtless show.

Through the instrumentality of local pastors, three meeting-houses have been consecrated to the worship of Almighty God. Two of these houses are the properties of organizations effected since the last meeting of Conference. The first belongs to the Altoona Church, which was organized by your Moderator about three years ago, now under the pastoral care of brother W. L. Spanogle. The meeting-house was dedicated July 19th. Second, Riddlesburg (Liberty Church) was organized in December, with twenty-eight members. The roll of this new charge now records forty communicants in good and regular standing. The Riddlesburg meeting-house was dedicated August 29th, the present year. This entire work was accomplished under the pastorate of our brother E. H. Smith. Third, Salisbury—organized by your Moderator Nov. 17, 1895, with

thirty-three members. The meeting-house belonging to this charge has not yet been formerly dedicated and we ask that this Conference make the dedicatory services of this place of worship the order of the day for Sabbath morning, Sept. 20th, and appoint those who shall preside and assist in the work. The membership of the Salisbury Church has reached forty-two souls, all good, solid, working material. These three ecclesiastical children are in the most prosperous condition and promise creditable things for the future.

Our welcome is extended to brother R. E. Darling and our dear friend and brother, Bishop H. R. Holsinger, who have recently removed within our bounds. Brother Darling, a young man of much promise, has the pastoral oversight of the Moxam Church, and Brother Holsinger, whom we all know and love, is engaged in literary work which will be formally referred to this Conference.

In view of the field and its needs, as your Moderator has been able to discover them, the following recommendations are offered to this Conference:

1. That we take into consideration the grouping of the several charges in the State on the basis of proximity, and numerical and financial strength.

2. That a State Statistician be elected by Conference who shall prepare a roll of charges, appointments, ministers, deacons and members.

3. That a committee on Digest be appointed, with brother John H. Knepper as chairman, who shall carefully review all former minutes of conferences and arrange the Digest in suitable form.

4. That a conference editor be appointed, who shall have charge of all papers and other literary matter presented to this conference and see that such materials are forwarded to the BRETHREN EVANGELIST in proper form for publication.

5. That inasmuch as the General Conference Executive Committee have reported Pennsylvania as the district in which the General Conference of 1897 may be held, this annual State Conference, for Pennsylvania, shall, during its sessions, designate the prospective location of said General Conference.

Praying that the peace of God which passeth all understanding, may keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; that the same mind may be in us that was in Christ Jesus, and that the Holy Spirit may preside over our deliberation during the sessions of this Annual Conference, your moderator would respectfully submit his report.

Resolved, That the Moderator's re-

port be adopted and published with the minutes and a committee be appointed to act on the various recommendations and requests of the address. Carried.

The Moderator appointed the following committees:

Credentials,—S. L. Buck, W. Z. Replogle, N. E. Miller.

Tellers,—M. J. Beachy, Daniel Crofford, Hiram Gochnour.

The following officers were then elected:

Moderator, J. H. Knepper; Assistant Moderator, J. F. Koontz; Secretary, M. C. Myers; Assistant Secretary, W. Z. Replogle.

The Moderator then appointed the following committees:

Parochial reports,—R. Z. Replogle, J. A. Miller, W. A. Seibert.

Queries,—J. W. Fitzgerald, M. M. Sterling, Annie Meyers.

Resolutions,—R. E. Darling, E. E. Haskins, J. C. Cassel.

Resolved, That a part of the expenses of the State Evangelist (J. B. Wampler) to the National Conference be paid by this convention. Amended that the convention pay him twenty-five dollars. Carried.

The topic: How may the Brethren Church reach the masses, was opened by Stephen Hildebrand, and further discussed by I. D. Bowman and J. W. Fitzgerald.

Announcements. Benediction. Adjournment.

SECOND SESSION FRIDAY, 7:30 P. M.

The session opened with singing and prayer led by E. H. Smith. Sermon 8:00 P. M. By Dr. McGregor.

THIRD SESSION, SATURDAY, 9 A. M.

Devotional services led by W. A. Harmon.

Moved and passed that the telegram from J. D. McFaden to the Conference be referred to the leader of the prayer and song service of the evening and Mission work be the subject.

Minutes of former sessions read and after some suggestions were adopted.

Moved and carried that this Convention act on the prayer of Sunday-school Convention to have all reports sent to the Secretary of the Convention ten days prior to the time of holding future Conventions.

Resolved That a Committee be appointed to act on the suggestions in the Moderator's report. The Chair appointed E. H. Smith and Daniel Crofford.

The Secretary then read the Altoona and McKee churches report. The reports were accepted and the four dollars contributed to be paid to the State Mission Board.

A paper was read by J. A. Miller, on